

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JP01/11385

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
Int.Cl.⁷ A61B8/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
Int.Cl.⁷ A61B8/00Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched
Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1922-1996 Toroku Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1994-2001
Kokai Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1971-2001 Jitsuyo Shinan Toroku Koho 1996-2001

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	JP 11-137550 A (Toshiba Corporation), 25 May, 1999 (25.05.1999), column 7, lines 3 to 26	1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 10, 12, 13, 15
Y	(Family: none)	3, 8, 11, 16
A		6, 14
Y	JP 8-280674 A (Toshiba Corporation), 29 October, 1996 (29.10.1996), column 4, line 47 to column 5, line 8; column 7, line 42 to column 8, line 27; column 10, line 32 to column 11, line 2 & US 5694937 A	3, 11
Y	JP 11-253449 A (GE Yokogawa Medical Systems, Ltd.), 21 September, 1999 (21.09.1999), column 3, line 32 to column 4, line 3; column 11, line 12 to column 13, line 7; Figs. 8, 13 (Family: none)	8, 16

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.☐ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not
considered to be of particular relevance"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing
date"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is
cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other
special reason (as specified)"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other
means"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later
than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or
priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to
understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be
considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive
step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be
considered to involve an inventive step when the document is
combined with one or more other such documents, such
combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search
05 February, 2002 (05.02.02)Date of mailing of the international search report
19 February, 2002 (19.02.02)Name and mailing address of the ISA/
Japanese Patent Office

Authorized officer

Facsimile No.

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C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	JP 8-182680 A (Toshiba Corporation), 16 July, 1996 (16.07.1996), column 31, line 29 to column 32, line 17 & DE 19548988 A & US 5724976	1-16
A	Naoyuki KAMIYAMA et al., "Flash Echo Eizou-hou no Kentou (5); negative pressure threshold ni tsuite", Chouonpa Igaku, 15 March, 1997 (15.03.1997), Vol.24, No.3, page 326	1-16
A	JP 10-75951 A (Hewlett-Packard Company), 24 March, 1998 (24.03.1998), Full text; Figs. 1 to 12 & US 5735281 A & DE 19723053 A	1-16